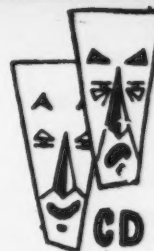


critical digest



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This Week in NYC

1180 American Educational Theatre Assn members attended Aug 24-30 Silver Anniversary Convention at the Waldorf Astoria. News highlights of the sessions, new officers, plans for the 1962 convention, top award winners are listed on Page 2. Round-up of convention speeches and seminars appear on Page 3.

Plays

A Taste of Honey will close Sept 9 after 391 performances, road tour opens Sept 11 in Washington, D.C. ... Do You Know the Milky Way Lyon Phelps' adaptation of Karl Wittlinger's German play due Oct 2 at Barrymore with Hal Holbrook and George Voskovec comprising entire cast, directed by Herbert Berghof. It is currently being presented at Vancouver, B. C. Festival.

Giants Sons of Giants a new version of Joseph Kramm's play tested as "Build With One Hand" to be directed by Jack Landau Jan 11 ... The Umbrella a new play by Bertrand Castelli and Raphael Hollander to be presented Feb 5 by Ketti Frings ... The Mistress of the Inn a new musical version of a Goldoni play by Ira Wallach, with music by Don Walker to be presented in Mar by Kermit Bloomgarden ... Come On Strong a new play written and directed by Garson Kanin to co-star Van Johnson and Carroll Baker, due Apr 4.

Players

John Cullum, understudy, to replace Roddy McDowall, Camelot, Sept 16, who joins "Cleopatra" film ... Ludwig Donath replaced Sam Wanamaker, A Far Country, who left to make "Taras Bulba" film ... Philip Fox joined All the Way Home ... Ethel Griffies to co-star in Write Me A Murder ... Donald Harron, Stubby Kaye, John Napier signed for Everybody Loves Opal ... Art Carney to star in Age of Consent, now due Dec 21.

Philip Langer named head of production by Theatre Guild, Inc ... Charles Coburn, 84, died at NYC Lenox Hill Hospital of heart failure.

NYC Calendar

The Pirates of Penzance-Phoenix (187-2nd Av) 9/6. Phoenix Theatre presents final production at 12th St playhouse, limited six week run of Tyrone Guthrie's Stratford, Ont. production of the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta with Marion Studholme, Andrew Downie, Eric House.

Broadway Business

Variety reports fourth consecutive week of general increases, with major upswing at All the Way Home. Sellouts at- Carnival, Sound of Music, Mary Mary.

Special Events

Equity members from current Broadway and Off Broadway casts will lead NYC Labor Day Parade up Fifth Ave from 29th St Sept 4 at 10 AM.

Theatre Record Notes

Othello album of Shakes - peare Recording Society with Frank Silvera, Cyril Cusack, Celia Johnson released by Philips, London.

Theatre Film Notes

Sartre's Altona to be filmed in Italy with Paris leading player Serge Reggiani ... America Corp has acquired a 50% participation interest and film rights to Roger Stevens production of Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole.

Theatre Book Notes

"The American Theatre as Seen by Hirschfeld" with an introduction by Brooks Atkinson to be published in Oct by George Braziller, NYC ... "Five Plays by Cocteau" to be published by Hill & Wang ... "Return Engagement (A Postscript to 'Moscow Rehearsal'" by Norris Houghton to be published by Prentice Hall ... New translations of A Doll's House, The Lady from the Sea, and The Wild Duck by Eleanor Marx Aveling, Linda Hannas, R Farquharson Sharp published in a volume by Everyman-Dutton.

Off Broadway

Anne Meacham left Hedda Gabler at short notice claiming that producer David Ross broke promise to consult her on cast changes for tour. Maureen Hurley will complete the run at 4th St Playhouse, Signe Hasso to star in tour opening Oct 5 Princeton, NJ ... Doris Roberts replaced Rae Allen, Death of Bessie Smith ... Shirley Chester replaced Gail Lucas as "Polly" in Three Penny Opera, still in "Last Weeks."

Krapp's Last Tape and The Zoo Story twin-bill to be revived Sept 12-Oct 8 at East End Theatre by Richard Barr-Clinton Wilder with Donald Davis in the Beckett solo play and William Daniels and Ben Piazza in the Albee play ... Twin-bill of Albee's American Dream and The Death of Bessie Smith will not be presented Sept 12-22, allowing for preview and Sept 17 opening of Beckett's Happy Days at Cherry Lane. After opening week Beckett play will be presented Tues to Fri, with Albee bill done twice nightly Sat and Sun.

Theatre Ad Notes

1000 theatre fans who sat in rain to see first free outdoor production of American Repertory Theatre's The Time of Your Life at Forest Park, Queens, thanked via Times display ad ... League of NY Theatres agreed to limit Sun display ads to 1/4 of page.

Church Drama

Blackfriars Guild open 21st season Oct 20 with Anthony on Over-time a new Italian-American comedy by Rose Grieco, directed by Michael Kray ... East Harlem Protestant Parish sponsoring free outdoor productions on specific corner lot locations of The Eye Patch by George Lionel Williams and The Fisherman by Jonathan Tree, directed by Steffen Zacharias.

Theatre Magazine Notes

Gideon full text to be published in Dec "Esquire."



Richard II- Wollman Rink, Central Park, 8/28. Third and final free outdoor presentation of the sixth season of NY Shakespeare Festival productions drew 2 outright pros and 5 qualified pros. Gladys Vaughan directed with cast headed by Ben Hayes in title role, J D Cannon, Kathleen Widdoes, Albert Quinton. Mirror and Journal American reviewers cheered entire proceedings, while majority granted the Joe Papp production an overall approval though they differed with some of the casting and direction. Several noted it was the least successful of the season. Shuldiner, Mirror, applauded colorful, lusty performance, fine players kept action going at a well-paced level. Lapole, Journal American, recommended fine presentation with fine performances, expert direction and superb physical properties. Mild pros had diverse views of Hayes as title player. Gelb, Times expressed congratulations for the pageantry, but commiserations on Hayes unconvincing performance. Crist, Herald Tribune, noted that Papp has only himself to blame for having led the audience to expect perfection. It is attained in a brilliant portrait by Cannon of "Bolingbroke", but not by Hayes. Watt, News, felt production is admirable as a free spectacle, but found it difficult to follow because of the sound system that made all voices sound alike. Saffron, World Telegram & Sun, also blamed Hayes for a general smallness, marking the production one of Papp's less engrossing. Watts, Post, applauded vigor and showmanship which were sufficient to maintain the vitality if not always the emotional power of the drama. Hayes portrays the main role attractively and well-spokenly, but something of the sheer relish in accepting and hailing his own destruction is missing.

The Tender Trap- 41st St (125 W 41) 8/25. 4 pro-Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, Journal American, and 2 con-Times, World Telegram & Sun- filed on final limited run "All Star Comedy Festival" revival of Max Shulman- Robert Paul Smith 1954 comedy, presented by Barbara Griner-Eleanor Horn, directed by Matt Cimber with Jean Shepard, Kenneth Brooks, Ellen Evans, Lisa Carroll. Affirmative voters enjoyed pleasant production of comedy that still has some fun it, while negative voters didn't think much of either cast or original script. Diverse views were expressed on Shepard's histrionic abilities. Pro side headed by Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, rated this the best of the five play series, modest, enjoyable summer stock in Manhattan, in spite of uneven cast. Mortimer, Mirror, okayed pleasant evening with professional cast, billing Shepard as excellent. Lapole, Journal American, agreed production was best of season, very pleasant Off Broadway fare, well played. Watts, Post, rated it passable entertainment, though less than brilliantly acted. Dissenter Esterow, Times, felt evening was less than uproarious with a contrived script, and an earnest and uninspired cast. Alpert, WTS, panned everything involved except Shepard.

NYC FUTURE CALENDAR

Zoo Story & Krapp's Last Tape- East End 9/12...
The Connection-Living 9/12... Cockeyed Kite- Actors Play-
9/13... I Want You- Maidman -9/14... Happy Days- Cherry
Lane- 9/17... One Way Pendulum- East 74 9/18... Misalliance
-Sher Sq 9/19... Greek Tragedy Theatre-City Center 9/19
... Opening of a Window-T Marquee 9/20... Ghosts-4th St-
9/21... High Fidelity-Ambassador-9/25... O Marry Me-
Gate 9/25... From the Second City-Royale 9/26... Hi Pais-
ano- York 9/27... 4th Av North- Mad Av 9/27... Thracian
Horses- Orpheum 9/27... Purlie Victorious-Cort 9/28...
Corn is Green- Masters 9/30

1180 members attended 25th Silver Anniversary Convention of American Educational Theatre Assn Aug 24-30 at Waldorf Astoria Hotel, NYC. Three day Children's Conference Aug 24-26 was attended by more than 400 and featured a two day showcase of productions at the YMHA by The Pocket Players, The Traveling Playhouse, The Story Players, Bruce King, and The Paper Bag Players. Latter group headed by Remy Charlip won raves from CTC Evaluation Session. Agnes Haaga, Univ of Wash, was elected to succeed Dorothy Schwartz, Loveman's, Alabama, as Director of CTC. Winifred Ward Fourth Annual prizes to new producing groups in children's theatre presented to Alton, Ill, Children's Theatre and Bessemer, Ala, Jr. Theatre. Mrs. Dorothy McFadden, Junior Programs, Inc won Monte Meacham Award.

American Community Theatre Assn one day session-Aug 27- elected Robert Telford, Virginia Museum Theatre, Richmond, to succeed Dorman Richardson, Toledo, Ohio, Repertoire Theatre. At a morning session community theatre leaders protested vigorously the delay in release of performing rights of Broadway hits.

Secondary School Theatre Conference one day session-also Aug 27- elected Charlotte Kay Motter, Sherman Oaks, Calif, to succeed John Barner, Baden, Penn, as director. Scarsdale, NY, H.S. company production of Our Town which recently toured Europe presented scenes.

AETA elected Marjorie Dycke, High School of Performing Arts, NYC, president to succeed Norman Philbrick, Stanford Univ, Calif. Robert Schneideman, Northwestern Univ, was appointed new Executive Secretary-Treasurer for a two year term starting Jan 1962 to succeed John Walker, Michigan State Univ, East Lansing. AETA Annual Award of Merit was presented to Rosamond Gilder, Director of US Center of the International Theatre Institute. \$1000 Senior Eaves Co Award presented to Dr Frank Whiting, Univ of Minn, and \$500 Junior Eaves Co Award to Prof. Paul Kozelka, Columbia Univ.

1962 AETA convention will be held in Aug at the Univ of Oregon, Eugene. The theme will be "Theatre of Distinction". It will also be a telescoped conference with all sections holding meetings during a three day period.

Growth and future purposes of AETA were detailed in the Silver Anniversary Luncheon address of retiring president Philbrick. AETA influence is strong and growing stronger in improving the standards of theatre offers, in improving theatre architecture as new buildings are constructed throughout the country, in stimulating new technical developments, in the translation and publishing of rare books on the theatre in sending abroad troupes of student actors to improve the cultural health of our image in other lands, in establishing minimum standards for undergraduate and graduate work, in promoting creative talents and abilities in all phases, in our relations with the government agencies concerned with theatre as a cultural force in our country and abroad, he summed.



GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

REVIEWERS AT WORK... 1961-62 credo of McClain, Journal American includes--a pledge to himself to remember at all times that the persons involved in a paltry play have not committed a criminal act, a try to rectify the mistake shared by all critics of praising or blaming the author for everything, and a desire that press agents for Off Broadway shows put the critics near the door, not on-stage... In the same week that David Merrick called Watts, Post, the best critic in the world, Nat Hentoff said he was the worst. Reviewer noted that of course they both could be wrong.

LEGIT NOVELISTS... Instead of innocuous "slices of life" on stage, Coleman, Mirror, would like to interest more masters of the novel and short story in the stage. Supply them with constructionists, but harness their creativity to a new medium.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Hasn't the Broadway musical in recent years been largely a triumph of technical skills over mediocrity in writing and composing, asks Watt, News... David Merrick's rumbles with actors have in a way been more entertaining than many of his shows, rates Winchell, Mirror... Watts, Post, would hate to learn that the entertaining Red Eye of Love isn't meant as a satire on the avant garde drama.



PROS & CONS BY TMK

Seven solid days at the fascinating seminars, workshops and lectures of the 25th AETA convention leaves a great deal of numbness in diverse physical areas and a few overall impressions. There is no doubt that the creators, producers and administrators of children's theatre in USA are far ahead of the educational and/or professional theatre workers in translating words into action. The results of work accomplished in the children's theatre field inspire of home grown apathy should inspire their elders to realize that problems are made to be solved.

The estimated growth in expensive college theatre plants and the predicted doubling of both staff and students within the next decade is either encouraging or frightening depending upon the future direction of college theatre education. A point made time and time again in the seminars at the convention was the vital importance of each school deciding what exactly it must train--teachers, community theatre leaders or professionals for NY or the 25 professional companies also expected in the next ten years at civic centers.

Perhaps the really scary item is the meaningless competition detailed with much anger between various types of theatre groups in the same area. Sabotage, wholesale raiding of casts, advertising and promotion working at cross purposes were a few of the cleaner techniques discussed. Nina Vance, Alley Theatre, Houston, expressed it best when she stated that "Fear is the only enemy that stops the development of more professional theatre in the country." The children's theatre workers have learned how to subtract fear from the classic fairy tales, maybe they should be turned loose on the professional theatre.



AETA SPEECH ROUND-UP

Theatre and The Human Bond: The theatre draws upon life and gives back what it borrows-with interest. No wonder the performing arts have become so important a part of international diplomacy. The subject is man, the object his fulfillment, the life between the two is The Human Bond. --Fred O'Neal, Equity, Keynote Address.

Community Theatre Problems: Many of the problems of the community theatre can be traced to the educational theatre, where the colleges and universities train multitudes of actors, directors, designers for the Broadway theatre. These people, instead of being trained to be community theatre workers and audiences, go to NYC and become tie-salesmen, or return from NYC to sell insurance--Robert Telford, Virginia Museum Theatre, Richmond.

Educational Theatre Abroad: The federal government should sponsor more tours of educational theatre abroad. Such college tours spread information about American education and how it has developed a middle class economy. The student actors come in contact with the future leaders of the under-developed country, contacts professional companies would never make--Randolph Edmonds, Florida A & M Univ.

Theatre As Teacher: American educators were urged to teach so creatively, so imaginatively, that they will convey the best of our dramatic heritage, experience, and taste to a new generation, and to adults as well. This will strengthen the ties that bind our civilization to the great civilizations of the past. Theatre teachers can also help students find the satisfaction of the craftsmen of old. They must work to make our arts so rich-so exciting-so inventive-that they mirror our life together as did the arts of the Greeks and of the Elizabethan Age.

--Abraham Ribicoff, Secretary of Health, Education

Creativity The Real Human Bond: It is the theatre's responsibility to reflect more than merely the pathological situations in society. The educational theatre movement can make a significant contribution to the growth of our country's children. The dramatic arts are powerful value-purveyors; the entire dramatic arts profession can begin the forefront of elevating ethical and moral values of our time. --Dr Zanvel Liff, NJ Center for Psychotherapy, Englewood.

Broadway and Community Directors Seminar: The director of a community theatre must be a teacher, leading the way to a finer theatre by educating actors and audience, said John Wray Young, Shreveport, La, Little Theatre... Directors are interpreters of plays, interpreting them through actors whom we must cajole, inspire, instruct, command to create the over-all conception, said Shepard Traube... Non-professional actors work very hard for the pay of personal satisfaction, and a director in such a theatre must supply an incentive, an environment wherein actors are getting important gratifications, said Laurence Johnson, Le Petite Theatre du Vieux Carre, New Orleans... The director is the necessary, though regrettable, item needed to bridge the gap in time. An ideal theatre would find a fine play and fine players having a meeting of minds so complete that a director is unnecessary, said Arthur Penn... A director must be a teacher, a policeman, a detective, a spy, a diplomat, a head shrinker. The director's inspiration comes from the script, the cast and himself, said Harold Clurman. 400 attended midnight session at Waldorf Astoria presented by the American Community Theatre Assn.



OUTER

BROADWAY

THEATRE

LETTER

College Theatre

Univ of Chicago Masquers¹ presented Child of Gods a new play by Ghanian poet Micheal del Anang in Ida Noyes Gardens on the campus. ... Carn Inst of Tech, Pittsburgh, awarded \$30,000 Rockefeller Foundation Grant to study economic problems of US theatre.

ANTA

Western Mass. Chapter of ANTA formed in Springfield.

Community Theatre

"Theatre in Westchester", Chrysler Auditorium, Rye, NY, second subscription season opens Nov 5 with A Tribute to Robert Burns, Elinor Basecu, producer ... Long Island Community Theatre, Baldwin, NY, has obtained 10,000 signatures on petition to establish a Nassau County Civic Theatre at Mitchell Air Force Base, Hempstead. ... Bergen Players Oradell, NJ open 29th season Oct 5 with The Pleasure of His Company.

Award Dept

National Catholic Theatre Conference "Professional Theatre Award" presented to Sound of Music at conclusion of NY 25th convention Aug 23-26.

New Playhouses

Fisher Theatre, Detroit, first attraction to be The Gay Life tryout Oct 2. ... Arena Stages new 796 seat \$750,000 theatre to debut Oct 30 with The Caucasian Chalk Circle directed by Alan Schneider.

Completing southern tour of Washington, D. C., Memphis, Dallas and Oklahoma City professional companies, Little, Herald Tribune, surmises that they may not produce much new work or many big musicals, and that the acting while often professional may be below Broadway quality. But living, fully staffed, independent, twenty four hour a day theatres are here doing all kinds of plays. They are something for Broadway to wonder about, NY reporter concludes.

Summer Playhouses

Spa Summer Theatre, Saratoga, NY, to re-open next summer. Seven bids placed with NY State Public Works Dept. Theatre which had been run for 14 seasons by John Huntington was closed this summer.

Free As A Bird a new play by Norma Macmillan to be tested this week at Grist Mill Playhouse, Andover, NJ with Edith Adams and Richard Derr, directed by Charles Olson.

Birds of Prey a revised version of a 1951 summer tryout by William Berney-Howard Richard - son to be presented this week at Guthsville Playhouse, Allentown, Penn.

The Beauty Part a new play by S J Perelman adapted from his "New Yorker" pieces to be tested Sept 18 at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Penn with Bert Lahr.

Road Shows

The Night of the Iguana to open tryout tour Nov 3 in Rochester, NY. ... Two by Shaw program with Paul Lukas heading cast of 15 in The Great Catherine and Captain Brassbound's Conversion to open national tour Jan 14 at Univ of Southern Calif, Los Angeles. ... Annette Hunt subbed final week for ill Eileen Brennan, The Miracle Worker Central City, Colo run. Tour resumes after one week layoff in Boston Sept 4.

London

Lady Chatterly's Lover adaptation at Arts Theatre added bedroom scene with blanketed nude actress after production drew poor notices. ... 17% increase in London theatre ticket sales this season reported by Keith Prowse & Co.

US Repertory

Theatre Guild-American Repertory Company productions in Santiago, Chile, lauded by audiences and reviewers.

Edinburgh Festival

Sappho by Lawrence Durrell currently being presented by Old Vic with Margaret Rawlings and Norman Tyrrell. ... Let Wives Tak' Tent Scottish version of Moliere's "L'Ecole des Femmes" presented by Edinburgh Gateway Company.

Europe

Orpheus Descending currently being presented in Moscow, Soviet's first Williams play. ... Vasa Theatre, Stockholm, opens 75th season with The Taming of the Shrew in Oct, to be followed by Period of Adjustment and Black Monday by Reginald Rose.

Current Road Tours

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying - Shubert - Philadelphia 9/4.

Kwamina - O'Keefe, Toronto 9/4

Milk and Honey - Colonial - Boston 9/5

Blood Sweat and Stanley Poole - Shubert, New Haven 9/7

Let It Ride - Erlanger -, Philadelphia 9/7

Sail Away - Forrest, Philadelphia 9/4

Miracle Worker - Wilbur - Boston 9/4

Bye Bye Birdie - Erlanger, Chicago 9/6

Fiorello - Biltmore, Los Angeles 8/7

Flower Drum Song - Playhouse, Wilmington 9/4

Gypsy - Curran, San Francisco 8/8

La Plume de Ma Tante - Alcazar, San Francisco 8/28

Music Man - Washington D. C. 8/28

Sound of Music - Philharmonic, Los Angeles

My Fair Lady - Geary, San Francisco



"CD" digests all theatre material in the 2100 pages of 7 NY daily papers of the preceding week. "CD" subscribers are invited to inquire further for more specific data on current reviews, back reviews and out-of-town tryout reviews via mail, phone or drop by for coffee and facts when in NYC.

